




Mary T. Cagle
Inspector General
Office of the Inspector General for Miami-Dade County Public Schools



To: Honorable Chairperson Perla Tabares Hantman
and Members, Miami-Dade County School Board
Alberto Carvalho, Superintendent, Miami-Dade County Public Schools

From: Mary T. Cagle, Inspector General 

Date: July 24, 2019

Subject: Announcement of Former Principal of Miami Jackson Adult Education
Center Plea Agreement, Ref. SB-1617-1001

On Wednesday, July 10, 2019, the former principal of Miami Jackson Adult Education Center (MJA Center), Joey Bautista, entered a guilty plea to two third degree felonies in conjunction with his employment with Miami-Dade County Public Schools. Through an agreement with the State Attorney's Office, Mr. Bautista pled guilty to Official Misconduct and Grand Theft, and was sentenced to two years of community control followed by three years of probation. In addition, he must successfully complete 100 hours of community service, pay \$41,798.22 in restitution to the School Board, and pay \$8,877.89 in investigative costs. Further, he will not seek employment with any state, county, or municipal government.

The OIG investigation, conducted jointly with State Attorney's Office Public Corruption Task Force (PC Task Force), which includes the participation of detectives from the Schools Police Department, resulted in Mr. Bautista's arrest in August 2017. The investigation found that Mr. Bautista, for two and half years, paid his personal housekeeper/nanny with School District funds. The employee was hired by Mr. Bautista and first worked as a school custodian at the MJA Center's satellite schools before Mr. Bautista directed her to clean and cook at his home and take care of his children – all while she remained on the MJA Center's payroll. For the time period investigated, Bautista's housekeeper/nanny was paid \$41,798.22 in taxpayer funds.

The OIG would like to thank M-DCPS staff for their continued support and assistance throughout this and other recent investigations. Additional prosecutions resulting from the OIG's collaboration with the PC Task Force are still pending, and as these cases are resolved, the OIG will inform you of the results.

c: Jaime Torrens, Chief of Staff
Edwin Lopez, Chief, Miami-Dade Schools Police
Walter J. Harvey, School Board Attorney
Maria T. Gonzalez, Chief Auditor, Office of Management Compliance Audits
Daisy Gonzalez-Diego, Chief Communications Officer